

The Romulus News

MARCH 21, 1997 — APRIL 3, 1997

"the little paper"

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 17

Timely Tidbits ...

Key Club Convention Stresses Service, Fun

The 46th annual Michigan District of Key Club convention will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Romulus over the weekend of April 4-6. Over 500 high-school students from all over the State will attend the event, hosted by the world's largest high-school service organization. During the convention, Key Clubbers will be able to elect new district officers, attend fun and informative forums, and meet many new people.

The Key Club's international theme of "Lead the Way . . . Kids First" was the basis of many thousands of hours of service rendered by Michigan District Key Clubbers. For more information about the Key Club or its upcoming convention, please contact Seema Taneja (810-339-3784) or George Brown (810-449-8655).

Bennett Sponsors Essay Contest

School children in the Eighth Senate District will be challenged to learn how a specific issue can have a lasting impact on Michigan's environment, and will have the opportunity to win a \$50 savings bond while doing so, says Senator Loren Bennett, who is sponsoring an Environmental Essay Contest for children in grades four through eight. The theme of the essay is "Why other states and Canada should not be able to send their garbage to Michigan."

Bennett currently has a bill before the Senate which — given future changes in Federal law — would allow Michigan to refuse out-of-state waste.

Essays should be no more than 150 words in length, and must be submitted by April 11. Winning entries will be selected by May 1. One winner from each grade will receive a \$50 savings bond, while second- and third-place finishers will be awarded certificates from the Senator. For more information, please contact Bennett's office: 1-800-704-6299.

Basham To Run for State Rep Seat

Editor's note: This is the third in a series of articles on candidates seeking the 22nd District's State Representative Seat, recently vacated when Greg Pitoniak resigned his office to accept an appointment as Mayor of Taylor. The first, concerning candidate Susan Cislo, appeared in our January 24 issue; the second, about candidate Wayne Avery, was published in our March 7 edition. Future articles will cover Taylor residents Rick Butkowski, Kevin J. McGuckin, and Edward G. Mulka, all of whom filed petitions of candidacy before the March 18 deadline.

Raymond Basham is one of six candidates running for State Representative of the 22nd District in an upcoming primary, which Governor John Engler has set for May 20. Basham will vie with Taylor residents Wayne Avery, Susan Cislo, Kevin J. McGuckin, and Edward G. Mulka for the Democrat's spot in the June 17 general election; only Rick Butkowski of Taylor came forward as a Republican candidate.

Basham, who is currently serving his second four-year term as a Taylor City Councilman, has also served on the City's Planning Commission for the last four years.

"Working together" seems to be the foundation of the 51-year-old Taylor resident's campaign platform. Whether the issue is education, law enforcement, or roads, Basham believes that one of the keys to implementing a qual-

ity program is making sure that there are sufficient personnel and adequate tools for the task.

"As State Representative, it will be my job to do whatever I can to support issues of priority to my constituents," he states. "As a husband, father of two children, and grandfather of three, I feel that I have a good understanding of the concerns of working families in the 22nd District."

An ESSP representative for Ford Motor Company, Basham addresses the problem of violence in the workplace, and also helps families deal with substance-abuse/mental-health issues and child/elder-care concerns. Serving in the Legislature, he says, would give him an ideal opportunity to use his extensive experience in order to fight these same problems on a community-wide level.

"Over the years," Basham says, "I've learned the importance of education and preventive measures in dealing with all kinds of situations. If you can stop a problem before it starts, that's the most effective — and cost-efficient — strategy of all."

Public-school education is another priority issue for Basham, who would like to see greater emphasis placed on smaller class sizes, standardization of curricula, and "learning the basics." And, in keeping with his interest in senior-citizen concerns, Basham says that he will be meeting with the local chapter of



Raymond Basham

the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) to discuss issues important to our community's elders, and to answer their questions about his candidacy for office.

"The education, health, and safety of our children, and ensuring the availability of programs for seniors, are vital to our community," he states.

Preservation of our access to quality health care, maintaining high levels of police and fire protection, improving our roads, and protecting the quality of our environment (both above and below ground) are other priorities identified by Basham.

"My continued involvement in city government has allowed me to be a part of making Taylor a better place to live and do business," he says. "I look forward to taking what I have learned at the local level and putting it to work in Lansing for the betterment of Taylor and Romulus."

The former Taylor Water Commissioner and City Constable is a U.S. Air Force veteran, and serves in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. His impressive resume of professional and community experience includes current or past membership in the United Auto Workers union, the 16th District Democrats, the Michigan Democratic Party, the Wolverine Masonic Lodge, and the Taylor Shrine Club.

For more information about the Basham campaign or upcoming fundraiser events, please call 946-5202. □

Potholes Loom Large on Spring Horizon

In Wayne County alone, road crews fill approximately 200,000 potholes per year. At an average depth of four inches, stacked one on top of the other, that's two Mt. Everests or 45 Empire State Buildings. Those four inches can cause significant damage to your car. AAA Michigan reports that it typically receives between 10,000 and 15,000 pothole claims annually (most during the late winter and early spring seasons).

Potholes cost the average American more than \$100 per year in vehicle repairs for new shock absorbers, blown tires, wasted gas, body work, and even broken windshields, says Jerry Basch, AAA Michigan Community Safety Services Manager. And with today's sophisticated technology, pothole vehicle damage can cost as much as several thousand dollars to repair.

How can you avoid these repairs?

"Keep your eye on the road," says Basch. "If contact with a pothole seems imminent, slow down and try to steer around it without endangering traffic in adjacent lanes."

Preventive maintenance can also lessen the jarring effects of an unwanted encounter of the pothole kind.

"Be sure to take your car in for a checkup if steering, ride, tire, or noise problems appear," says Basch. "Keep your tires properly inflated and steering and suspension components in good condition. Especially critical are the shock absorbers or struts, which prevent excessive rebound or bottoming out on severe bumps."

Potholes are created when snow or rain seeps into cracks on the road sur-

continued on page 3

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor must contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity. Names will be withheld by request if, in our opinion, the letter's content merits anonymity.

The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

Resident Thanks DPW for Job Well Done

To the editor:

After being awakened repeatedly by the sound of cars turning around in my driveway during the very early hours of Friday, March 14, I did a little investigating and found the reason: a fallen tree was blocking the road near my home. Within a half-hour of my call to the Romulus Police Department, the City's Department of Public Works (DPW) employees were out to take care of the problem.

This is just one example of the fine job that our DPW continues to do on a daily basis, and I, for one, just wanted to express my thanks.

Sincerely,
Dolores Witzgall
Romulus

Wanted: Parents of "Special Needs" Kids

Dear Romulus residents:

The Romulus Special Services Office and parents in the Romulus Community Schools district have joined together to form a new group. We would like your help in reaching other parents/guardians who may be interested.

We are the Romulus Special Needs Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). We will serve as a communication link between parents of special-needs children and the school district. Special needs, by definition, means a physical or mental condition that affects learn-

ing, so our group will include parents of children from special education and who have attention deficit disorders, as well as those who have medical conditions (asthma, epilepsy, etc.).

We will be encouraging parents of all students with special needs to be active in their children's education. We will promote community awareness and sponsor informative meetings, as well as develop a handbook for special services. We would like to support parents through the special-education process. As parents who have been to building team meetings and IEPs, we understand how confusing they can be! Sometimes parents need someone to ask besides staff members. We hope to help.

With special education servicing over 400 students, it's time that parents help each other. Along with confidentiality also comes isolation. Most parents in this district would benefit from knowing they are not alone. They are not the only parent with a child who learns differently, or is on medication.

We hope the PAC and the staff of Romulus Schools can work together for the benefit of all students. For more information about the Romulus Special Needs PAC, please call either Terri Tuszyński at 941-7330 or Debra Elam at 941-4249.

Sincerely,
Debra Elam
Romulus Special Needs PAC

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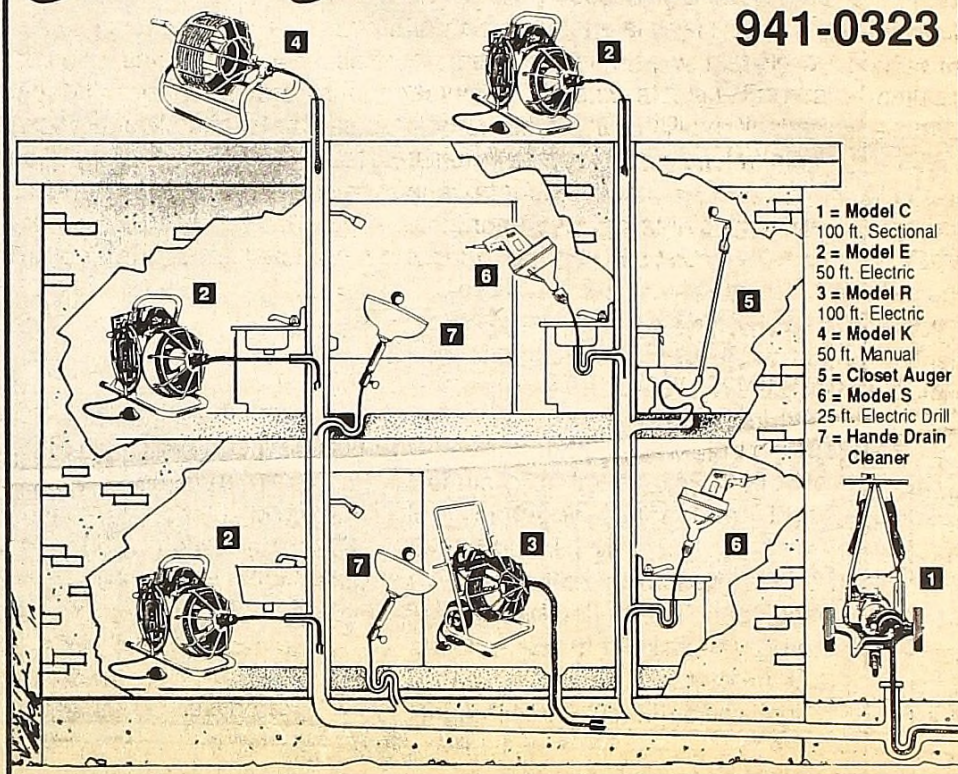
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Nite-Lite Graphics and *The Romulus News* are owned and operated by Evelyn H. Atkins.

The Romulus News welcomes articles, submitted by individuals and/or organizations, that may be of interest to its readers; however, *The Romulus News* reserves the right to edit any article submitted for publication.

The Romulus News is not responsible for articles submitted by writers in whole or in part, and the opinions and views expressed by the writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or staff. Since material submitted for "Letters to the Editor," "Local Commentary," and similar columns may be printed verbatim, misspellings and grammar errors in these columns may be the responsibility of the writer, and not of the composition department of *The Romulus News*. (All letters must be signed, and must include a telephone number so that their authenticity can be verified.)

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POTHOLES

continued from page 1

face. The moisture freezes during cold weather, causing the ground and pavement to expand upward. When temperatures rise, a cavity is created as the soil returns to its normal level. Heavy traffic causes the pavement to crack and fall into the cavity beneath, creating a pothole. Due to weather conditions and roads in need of repair, potholes appear to be "blooming" more this season than in past years.

"800 Number" for Bad Roads

To help draw attention to the condition of the State's roads, AAA Michigan has established a toll-free "Road Condition Hotline." To report bad road conditions in your area, call 1-800-411-4823. AAA Michigan will log the reports and monitor repair progress.

Potholes are symptomatic of a much more serious problem - the general condition of Michigan highways. Our roads and bridges continue to deteriorate from years of neglect and lack of funding for repair.

"Michigan ranks 45th out of the 50 states in the amount spent on capital highway improvements," says Larry Givens, AAA Michigan Vice President of Corporate Relations. "Since 1982, 47 other states have increased their gas tax; we capped our tax at 15 cents in 1984."

Although proposed gas taxes have

been the subject of much heated controversy, AAA Michigan says that it supports a modest fuel-tax increase of five to seven cents per gallon to keep Michigan competitive with neighboring states. In defense of its position, the company cites the following: In 1994, 21% of AAA Michigan's 1.6 million members rated State highways in poor condition. In 1996, that number doubled to 40%. It is estimated that each Michigan motorist spends more than \$100 per year on average for extra vehicle repairs, wasted fuel, and tire wear by driving on poor roads. A five-cents-per-gallon fuel-tax increase, on the other hand, would cost the average motorist \$30 per year; a seven-cent increase would cost the average motorist \$42 per year.

Among other solutions proposed is Governor John Engler's plan involving no new taxes, which would generate \$70 million in additional State funding, plus the promise of \$200 million from Federal transportation funding reforms, \$10 million from State-level tort reforms, and \$15-\$18 million resulting from the elimination of the spillage allowance.

"AAA Michigan applauds this plan as an important step in generating revenue for immediate improvements," says Givens. "However, we encourage the State legislature to consider alternative funding methods to address long-term infrastructure needs." □

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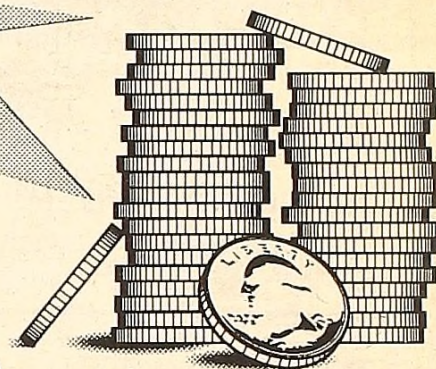
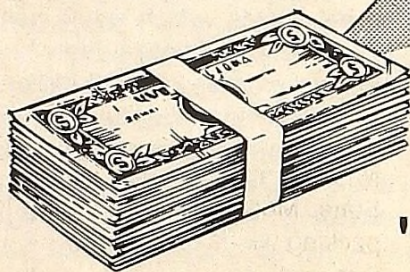
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Be Alert for Spring Season's Hazardous Weather

Is it the first Saturday of the month at 1 p.m.?

Are you indoors or outdoors?

Are you in your car?

Are you at home or are you at work?

Has it been raining and is the sky dark?

The answer to these questions would make a difference in what you should do.

If the siren sounds on the first Saturday of the month and the weather is clear, then, more than likely, it's a test of the sirens in Romulus. If the siren goes off and the weather is bad, regardless of the day or time, go inside (if you aren't already there) and turn on a radio or television to see if a tornado warning is in effect. If there is a tornado warning, go to a pre-designated area, either in the basement or some other location that you have determined to be safe. Take a portable radio with you.

If you are in a car when the siren sounds, tune your radio to the weather news. If there is a tornado warning, look at the sky to determine if it is near where you are, and then drive safely to the nearest shelter.

If you are at work or school when the siren sounds, inform the proper people and follow their direction.

Before It Happens

Now is the time to do a survey in your house. Where would you be away from the windows and in the safest area? Be aware of where the rest of the family members are. When the children are outside, keep an eye of them, and call them into the house when tornado warnings are indicated. If your children are at a friend's house, call them to make them aware of the weather problems, and let them know whether they need to come home or should take shelter where they are.

At your workplace, are there emergency plans for tornado safety? Are there emergency shelters for tornadoes? Do you know what to do? Does

your company practice these plans?

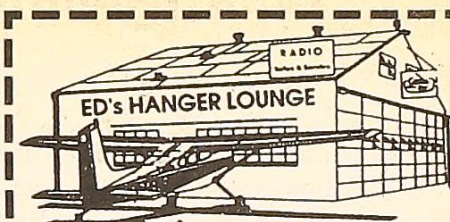
Watch or Warning

Since tornadoes develop and move rapidly, people should be familiar with various severe-weather alerts. A *tornado watch* simply means "watch out." Severe thunderstorms and tornadoes are possible. Residents should gather a first-aid kit, flashlight, and portable radio; monitor local television and radio; and keep an eye on the sky.

A *tornado warning* issued for the county means that a tornado is happening now. Go immediately to the basement and take cover under something sturdy. If there is no basement, a bathroom or closet in the lowest, centermost part of the building works best. Remember to stay away from windows.

Some Facts About Tornadoes

Last year was a relatively quiet one for tornadoes in Michigan, with 12 twisters affecting 12 counties in the State. Most notably, a strong tornado packing winds of over 160 mph ripped through the community of Frankenmuth, causing over \$5 million in damage and injuring one person. Tornadoes have killed 342 Michigan citizens. In fact, Michigan holds the dubious distinction of having the eighth deadliest tornado in the United States history (Flint, 1953).



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Community Calendar

- **Special Events at St. Paul's** – St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (located at Ellis and Craig streets in New Boston) invites the public to attend Holy Week Vespers on Maundy Thursday, March 27, at 7 p.m.; Good Friday, March 28, at 1 and 7 p.m.; and Easter Sunday, March 30, at 6:30 a.m. (with breakfast immediately following worship) and 10 a.m. Also, All-you-can-eat Fish Dinners – featuring baked and deep-fried fish, French-fried and scalloped potatoes, cole slaw, roll, macaroni, jello, dessert, and drink – will be held on March 21 and 28; tickets are \$7 for adults. For more information, please call the Church at 753-9048.
- **Release** – *Release*, a dramatic one-act play, will be performed at Calvary Baptist Church (located at 11338 Ozga Road in Romulus) on Good Friday, March 28, at 7 p.m., and Easter Sunday, March 30, at 6 p.m. Presented by the Church's drama department, *Release* will change the way your family sees the celebration of Easter! Admission is free, and no offerings will be taken. Church youth groups and Christian school speech classes are urged to attend on Friday night. For details, call the Church: 941-0236.
- **Free "Mini Health Fair"** – Oakwood Hospital-Annapolis Center will sponsor a free Mini Health Fair on Monday, April 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Romulus Senior Center (located at 36515 Bibbins). Adults of any age can participate in this event, which will feature testing for height/weight/body composition, blood pressure, total cholesterol, glucose, pulse oximetry (lung function), hearing, and more. A take-home colorectal screening kit and various types of health-related literature will also be available. For further information, please call 942-6852.
- **Give Your Child a Head Start** – The Romulus Head Start program is currently accepting applications for eligible three- and four-year-old children. This free preschool program, located at Beverly School, serves children from low-income families, foster children, and children with disabilities. For more information, or to apply, please call 728-7815.
- **Big, Beautiful People Welcome!** – The Tons of Fun Social Club for Big, Beautiful People and their admirers welcomes you. For information on upcoming events, call 313-438-1802.
- **Pumpkin Festival Committee Needs You!** – The Romulus Pumpkin Festival Committee is still hard at work, preparing to host the first annual Pumpkin Festival in September. The Committee's meetings are held in the Romulus City Hall Community Room (located in the lower level) at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month (next meeting: March 20). For more information, please call Susan Watts at 941-0476.
- **Romulus Little League Meetings** – The Romulus Little League Board of Directors invites the public to attend its regular meetings, held at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (next meeting: March 5) at the Romulus Recreation Department (located at 36515 Bibbins).
- **RHS Track Open To Public** – Just a reminder to all you winter walkers that the track in the Romulus High School gymnasium is open to the public weekdays from 6 to 7:30 a.m., and is also available from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays if the gym is not being used by one of the student sports teams. (When the gym is in use, walking is permitted in the school hallways, instead). For more information, contact the Athletics Office at Romulus High School: 941-2170.

To place information in the Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113

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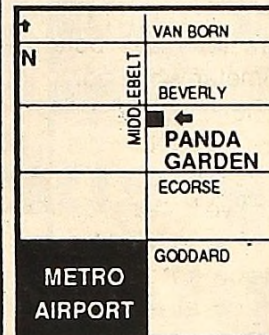
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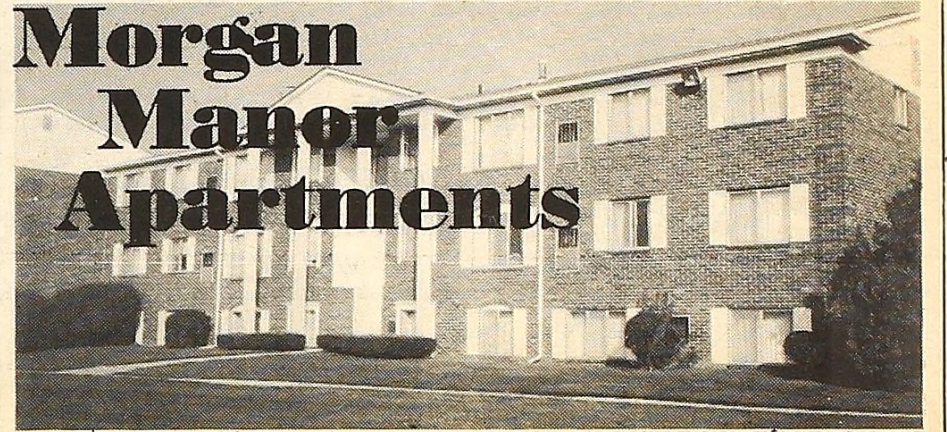
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Get Creative: New Ideas for Easy Easter Decorations

Egg-cellent Easter Centerpiece

Tired of the mess involved with dyeing Easter eggs, yet still want colorful eggs to put in your Easter basket centerpiece? Instead of using food coloring, start twisting paper, and you can create colorful Easter eggs that will last for years. And you can add baby bunnies to the basket of "colored" eggs to make a beautiful holiday centerpiece.

"In the time it takes you to boil eggs and color them, you can create twisted paper eggs that are just as colorful, yet will last for years," says Susan Brandt, assistant executive director/communications director for HIA (Hobby Industry Association). "This project is inexpensive and fun to make, and has the added benefit of being easy and safe enough for children to complete with minimal supervision."

To make a dozen paper-twist Easter eggs, you will need a seven-inch piece of twisted paper in 12 colors and 12 two-inch Styrofoam™ eggs. Untwist each seven-inch piece of twisted paper and cut each into half-inch strips. Cover the back of each paper strip with glue. Wrap the strip around the Styrofoam egg, lengthwise. Smooth edges and trim ends, if necessary. Repeat with remaining strips of twisted paper, overlapping slightly until entire egg is covered. For smooth coverage, begin one

strip on the bottom and the next strip on the top. Alternate as you add strips.

To make baby bunny heads, you will need a two-inch piece of twisted paper, one 25-millimeter white pompon, one five-millimeter pink pompon, two five-millimeter black beads, and two 12.5-millimeter white pompons for each bunny head. Untwist the white paper and cut two rabbit ears out of it. Glue ears to the back of the large white pompon. Glue two half-inch white pompons to the bunny's "face" for cheeks, the pink pompon for a nose, and the black beads for eyes.

Fill a basket with plastic or wood excelsior grass, the colored eggs, and baby bunny heads, and your Easter centerpiece is complete. To make hanging decorations, glue ribbon and a baby bunny head to each paper twist egg.

Make Your Own Peter Cotton Tail

Put a smile on someone's face when you give them an adorable Easter bunny you made yourself. It's so easy: all you need is some glue and a few pompons. Let this bunny "hippity-hop" into your heart.

To make a fluffy bunny you will need pompons, (one 2½-inch gray, one 1½-inch gray, three one-inch white, two half-inch white, one quarter-inch peach), gray felt, and two seven-millimeter wiggle eyes.



Decorative and colorful Easter decorations that last for years are easy to make using twisted paper, glitter, pompons, and just a little imagination. Shown above is a variation of the Egg-cellent Easter Centerpiece.

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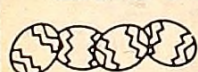
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First, glue the two large pompons together (the smaller is the head). Cut out gray felt ears and glue to the back of the 1½-inch gray pompon. Glue two one-inch white pompons to the sides of the body for the paws and one one-inch white pompon to the top of the body for a tail. Glue two half-inch white pompons to the bunny's "face" for cheeks, the peach pompon for a nose, and the wiggle eyes.

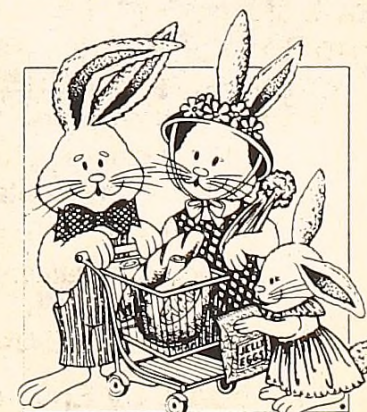
Glitter Easter Eggs

If you thought glitter was just for high fashion, you've been missing out on one of the hottest trends in arts and crafts. Glitter can be used to decorate almost anything: desk accessories, clothing, even Easter eggs, and the best part is that you don't have to be an artist to do it.

"Using glitter is a fun and easy way for both children and adults to be creative," says Brandt. "You can change many simple products into 'designer originals' with just a little adhesive spray or glue and some glitter. For a more elaborate look, add watercolor markers, color embossing powders, or embellish your creations with other craft materials such as rubber stamps, beads, colored pencils, feathers, ribbon, etc. Once you've got your supplies, let your imagination run wild."

- Dye your hard-boiled eggs in food coloring/water/vinegar solution (using two parts water, one part vinegar, and two to four drops of food coloring, depending on the desired shade.)
- Allow eggs to dry.
- Using rubber stamps or markers, stamp or draw on both sides of egg and allow to dry.
- Apply adhesive spray around the colored egg. (Regular glue may be substituted.)
- Apply an even coat of clear or iridescent glitter to cover the egg.

The creations are limitless! This Easter, try some of these new ideas or create your own. □



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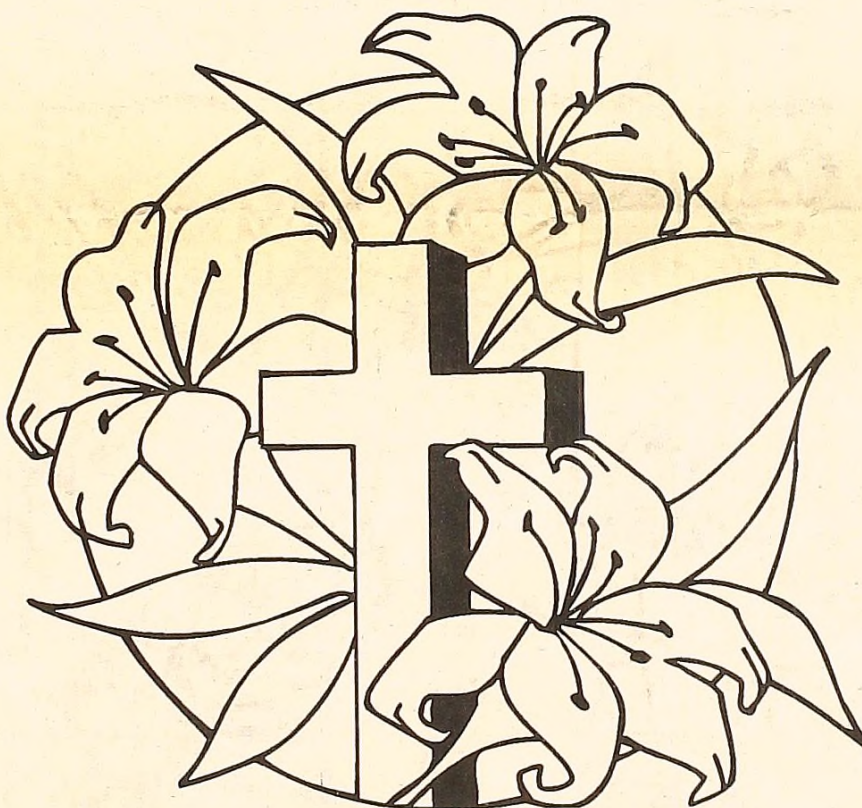
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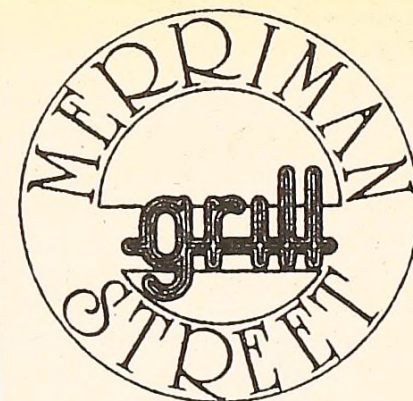


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Recreation Programs

Thanks to Debbie Dick, Director, City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, and Keith Brothers, Recreation Coordinator, for supplying information for the "Recreation Programs" column. For more information about these or other offerings, stop in at the Recreation Department Office, 36515 Bibbins, or call 942-6852.

Unless otherwise noted, registration for the following programs should be made at the Romulus Recreation Department during its regular hours (weekdays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

Adult Summer Softball

Although the Romulus Recreation Department plans to accept team registrations for its adult summer softball league as late as Saturday, April 12, early sign-up is strongly recommended. (League Classification breakdown: Red = B & C; White = C & D; Blue = D & below.)

Mon./Wed. Men's White Division

- 8 teams / 21 games / 2 umpires
- times: 6:30, 7:40, 8:50, and 10:00
- cost: \$575

Mon./Wed. Women's White Division

- 8 teams / 21 games / 1 umpire
- times: 6:30, 7:40, 8:50, and 10:00
- cost: \$450

Tues. Women's Blue Division

- 8 teams / 14 games / 1 umpire
- times: 6:30, 7:40, 8:50, and 10:00
- cost: \$350

Thurs. Men's Blue Division

- 8 teams / 14 games / 2 umpires
- times: 6:30, 7:40, 8:50, and 10:00
- cost: \$475

Fri. Men's Red Division - Field A

- 8 teams / 14 games / 2 umpires
- times: 6:15, 7:30, 8:45, and 10:00
- cost: \$475

Fri. Men's Blue Division - Field B

- 8 teams / 14 games / 2 umpires
- times: 6:15, 7:25, 8:35, and 9:45
- cost: \$475

Sun. Men's White Division

- doubleheader format
- 10 teams / 18 games / 2 umpires
- times: 12:00, 1:10, 2:20, 3:30, 4:40, and 5:50
- cost: \$500

Easter Egg Hunt

The Romulus Recreation Department's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Elmer Johnson Park beginning at noon on Saturday, March 29. Separate search areas will be set up for each age group: age two and under (walkers only), ages three and four, ages five and six, and ages seven and eight. Children should bring their own basket or bag for the eggs that they collect.

There is no charge to participate in this event, and no preregistration is required.

Dinosaur Exhibit

Kids age five and up (parents are encouraged to attend, too) will get a chance to check out the Domino Farms dinosaur exhibit, with a pit stop at Caesar Land, on Tuesday, April 1. A cost of \$7 per person includes transportation, supervision, entrance to the exhibit, two pieces of pizza, pop, and eight Caesar Land tokens. The bus will depart from the Recreation building at 11 a.m. and return at about 4:30 p.m.

Although the registration deadline is 12 p.m. on March 31, early sign-up is encouraged because the trip is limited to the first 50 registrants.

Skateland

Young skaters won't want to miss this Easter-break trip to Westland's Skateland on Friday, April 4. A cost of \$6 includes transportation and supervision, as well as skate rentals (anyone wishing to rent in-line skates will have to pay an additional \$4 fee at the rink). The bus will depart from the Recreation building at 12:15 p.m. and return around 3:30 p.m.

Again, although the registration deadline is 12 p.m. on April 3, early sign-up is encouraged because the trip is limited to the first 50 registrants.

Quilting Classes

Getting together to combine friendly socialization with the art of quilting is a time-honored ritual as old as America itself - and it's a tradition that the Romulus Recreation Department is doing its part to continue. Drop-in classes for beginning and experienced quilters are held each Thursday from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Recreation Building. Cost is \$1 for Romulus senior citizens; \$1.50 for other residents; \$2 for nonresidents.

Ceramics Classes

The Romulus Recreation Department's weekly drop-in ceramics class is open to interested people of all skill levels at the Recreation building each Monday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$1.50 per class for residents, \$2 for nonresidents. An additional firing charge equal to half the cost of the green ware will be due upon completion of each project.

Spring Programs

The Romulus Recreation Department's spring-season programs are about to begin. Watch for information in our April 4 issue, or call 942-6852. □

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Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Audry Moomaw, Manager of the Romulus Tower, and to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (Note: For further information about events at the Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, call 942-6852.)

Valentine's Luncheon at the Tower

Manager Audry Moomaw and the residents of Romulus Tower would like to thank vocalist/musician/entertainer Cecilia Lee for her wonderful performance at the Tower's Valentine's Day luncheon. Ms. Lee's wide selection of material and her personable manner as she went from table to table, urging guests to join her in song, was a pleasure for everyone.

AARP Income Tax Service

Low- and middle-income senior citizens can receive free tax preparation services at the following sites:

- Friendship Community Center (Sarah Bohmhauer)
1119 North Newburgh
(between Ford and Marquette)
Westland, MI 48185
313-722-7632
- Maplewood Senior Center (Charles K. Benton)
31753 Maplewood
(west of Merriman, north of Ford)
Garden City, MI 48135
313-525-8848

Be sure to call ahead for dates and times, as well as a list of materials which must be brought to the appointment.

Senior Crime Watch

Local senior citizens interested in learning more about what they can do to prevent crime and promote safety within their neighborhood are invited to attend the Center's next "Senior Crime Watch" meeting, to be held from 9 to 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 27. Officer Tom Ellis of the Romulus Police Department will be on hand to offer his assistance and share his expertise.

Please come: Isn't your protection and peace of mind worth an hour of your time?

Weekly Programs

The Romulus Senior Center has a full schedule of weekly programs for senior citizens' enjoyment. Come in on your own or bring a friend for ceramics (Mondays at 1 and 6 p.m.); Club #1 meetings (Tuesdays at 11 a.m.); euchre (Tuesdays at 1 p.m.); bingo (Wednesdays at 1 p.m.); and pinochle (Thursdays at 1 p.m.).



Cecilia Lee

Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about this or other special trips planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman at 942-6852.

- **Bay Mills Resort & Casino**—Those who love to flirt with Lady Luck won't want to miss this overnight excursion to the Bay Mills Resort and Casino in Brimley, Michigan. The \$115 cost of the trip, which departs May 5, includes round-trip motor-coach transportation, one night's accommodations, one breakfast, one dinner, and \$40 total cash back from casinos in St. Ignace and the Soo.

Free Blood-pressure Readings

Community Emergency Medical Service conducts its free blood-pressure checks at the Center on the fourth Monday of every month at 1 p.m.

Hot Lunch

For just \$1.50, Romulus seniors (age 60 and over) can enjoy a hot lunch at the Center any weekday at 11:30 a.m. Call the Romulus Senior Center at least 24 hours in advance to make a reservation. Home delivery of hot meals is also available for qualified individuals. For information about the "Meals on Wheels" program, call 1-800-851-1454.

Donation Sought

The Romulus Recreation and Senior Center is looking for the donation of a working television for use at the Center. For more information, call 942-6852.

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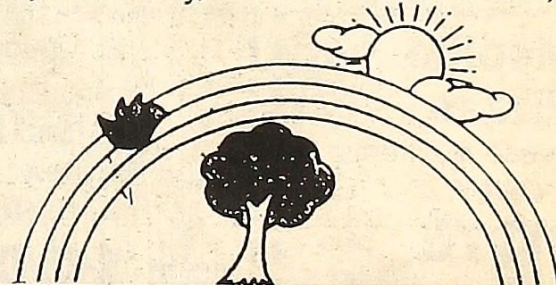
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Mary E. Clark

By Shylah Broom, Shona Brown, Chereese Bolding, and Tiffany White

Did you ever think that an elder would be interesting? Well Mary E. Clark is!

Before we met our elder, we thought she might be very quiet. We thought she might be on a breathing machine. We also thought she would be very forgetful. But Mary did not fit any of our guess stereotypes.

When we first met Mary, we felt that she was really sweet. She was talkative. She was white with gray hair. She dressed well and had an interesting life.

Mary was born on July 29, 1920 in a small town in Kentucky named Haldeman. Her mother was nineteen when she gave birth to Mary and her father was twenty-four. Mary had one sister, four brothers, and four stepbrothers. Her parents and she were very close. They never pressured her to do anything she did not want to do.

Mary was married when she was nineteen years old. She had two boys and two girls. She had a very happy marriage. Her husband was twenty-one years old when they were married. Her wedding was on a stage in the middle of the football field. They had a hillbilly wedding in July.

Mary's children were very important to her. She said they were very intelligent and all of them were musicians. Also, they had their own band. She enjoyed the good times she spent

with them. Mary said the worst thing about raising children was seeing them suffer because they were ill. Mary feels that young parents today have less control over their children, and it's the parent's fault. She said they need to discipline them more, but in a way that they can understand it. She also added never say you are going to do something and do not.

Mary went to school in Haldeman, Kentucky and stayed in school all through to high school. Then she had one year in teacher college and one in business college. Her favorite subject was English, and her worst subjects were science and math. Mary's favorite teacher was Hildereth Maggard, an English teacher. The biggest problem when she was in school was money.

One of the hardest things Mary ever encountered was the depression and World War II. She showed us the kind of stamps they used in the war for food. They had stamps for gasoline too. Mary said that was a very hard time in her life. The war was hard for her children too. They did not have a lot of money to buy toys and stuff.

When we asked Mary what were the most important inventions during her lifetime, she replied that television and transportation were. Before the television was invented, she used to listen to the radio shows or talk to a friend on the phone. She feels that television is both good and bad. She feels that there are some things we can do without. She feels that we could not live without transportation or the telephone. She also feels that technology has made her life less stressful.

Mary said if she could have been anything she wanted, she would have been a dancer. She said that she accomplished two of her goals which were becoming a writer and raising a family. Her recipe for a long life is be happy and eat healthy.

We learned a lot from Mary E. Clark. We learned that all seniors are not hard of hearing or sick all the time. We also learned that talking to an elder can be very interesting. You get to learn about history before you read about it in your history books. Mary told us that when she wanted something she worked hard to get it or got better than she wanted. Mary is one of the nicest, most caring, and talented ladies at Romulus Towers.

We, Shylah, Shona, Chereese, and Tiffany learned a lot from this experience with Mary. We hope we can meet more nice people like her.

Senior Profile: Mary Clark

Editor's note: On this page, you'll find the seventeenth and eighteenth in an ongoing series of biographies about local senior citizens which were written by Romulus High School teacher Cathy Uhring's 1995-1996 freshman English

students, and published in a student-produced booklet called Open Up the Doors of the Past.

Watch for more senior-citizen biographies in future issues of "the little paper."

* * *

"Think Positive, Work Hard and Never Give Up"

By Crystal Vincent, Krystle Johnson, and Abdul-Quran Muhammad

Can you imagine how a child, who was only three years old, felt when their home was burned and at age nine their house was washed away by a terrible flood? The only lady that we could think of was Mary E. Clark. Her life was full of many ups and downs. However, she is a strong lady who knows how to deal with any problem that comes her way.

Before we had a chance to meet a senior citizen we had many mixed feelings about them. We thought of them as very old people with a lot of time on their hands. Also very interesting people because of the stories they like to tell. We also felt that they were old fashioned. They seemed to have an opinion about everything. They also liked talking to kids.

Our first impression of Mary was she was a very talkative lady. We could tell that she was nervous because her hands were shaking, but we were too. Mary was very prepared, she had pictures and other little things to show us. She already knew what she was going to say which we were glad about. We felt that she was nice and pleased that we had the pleasure of interviewing her.

When we first met Mary, the first thing we noticed was her shiny short gray hair. She seemed to be a very pleasant person, but the main thing that caught our eyes was that she was an old lady who looked very young. She dressed nice and was wearing very pretty jewelry. When we settled in, we found her to be very smart and liked to talk a lot.

Mary Clark had many occupations during her lifetime such as a secretary and booking agent for her husband who was a musician. In her spare time, which she has a lot of now, she likes to write short stories that we found very interesting. She has an education all the way up to a year in college and another year in business college. She believes that families today are very different from when she was a child. They would all sit around the table and talk. It was something they all looked forward to.

In Haldeman, Kentucky on July 29, 1920 Mary E. Clark was born to "two terrific parents" who are now both deceased. She has one sister, four brothers, and four children of her own. She raised her children up to be honest, straight forward, never to be prejudiced, or make fun of anyone.

During her lifetime, Mary had many hard times. At the age of 15, her father was murdered and it devastated her. It was very difficult. Her marriage broke up after 38 years. She also lost two adult sons. As a child she had to walk 7 or 8 miles to work during the depression. As a child the best things her parents did was encourage her. Her husband's singing career was very hard on the family because they were always moving but the best thing was them all being together.

WWII was happening during her time. She said it was "very frightening," and it made her appreciate the country she lived in. As a teen, Mary Clark had to work to support herself. Her favorite car was a '36 Nash. It got her through the snow no matter what. Mary had set many high goals for herself such as being a dancer, teacher, and poet; however, the only one she did not accomplish was being a dancer.

Mary Clark told us many interesting things. Her advice to teens would be to think positive, work hard, and to never give up. She never grew up around many African Americans, but she always taught her kids never to be racist. She also believes that the most important thing in raising kids today is discipline. We learned a lot of things from our elders such as people her age are very interesting. Mary also expressed with us how she feels parents today do not have as much control over their kids today as parents did in her time.

We learned that seniors are very nice. They really enjoy being asked questions. It was very nice for them to take time out and talk to us. We learned a lot about the olden days and how interesting those days were. We're glad to have been picked to interview the elders. □

Engagement

Richard Evans III / Alanna Young

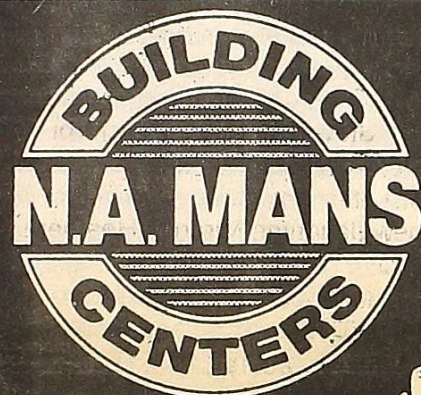
Ted and Nancy Young of Woodhaven, Michigan, are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Alanna Young, to Richard Evans III, son of Richard and Joyce Evans of Romulus, Michigan.

The couple – who have been engaged since Tuesday, December 24, 1996 – plan to exchange their vows on Saturday, September 13, 1997, at St. Stephen's Catholic Church (New Boston, MI).

A reception, to be held at Burton Manor (Livonia, MI), will immediately follow the ceremony. □



Alanna and Richard



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REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 24, 1997

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, February 24, 1997 was called to order at 7:36 P.M. by President Kenneth E. Berlinn.

Roll call showed all Members present. All Administrators were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Kenneth E. Berlinn.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

2/97/12 Moved by Oleszkowicz supported by Gondek to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

2/97/13 Moved by Langley supported by Lenossi to approve the Minutes of February 10, 1997 as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

Dr. Samuel B. La Monica, Director of Human Resources, recommended the following personnel actions for Board approval.

EMPLOYMENT: Paul Neidermeyer, Science Teacher, Senior High School, Effective February 18, 1997.

(INFORMATION ONLY) RESIGNATION: Donna Lindquist, IR Para – Merriman Elementary School, Effective February 28, 1997.

(INFORMATION ONLY) EMPLOYMENT: Donna Wilson, LD Para – Wick Elementary School, Effective February 24, 1997.

2/97/14 Moved by Langley supported by Lenossi to approve the personnel actions as presented by Dr. Samuel B. La Monica. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Bills for Payment

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, presented the Bills for Payment for Board approval.

2/97/15 Moved by Oleszkowicz supported by Lenossi to approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. Joel R. Carr. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Secondary Language Arts – Hurst, Cook, and Bowersox

Mr. Hurst, Ms. Cook, and Mr. Bowersox presented an update on the Language Arts Curriculum at the secondary schools. Also, Mr. Bowersox explained the writing and reading for the High School Proficiency Test.

DEQ Report – Dump Near Wick

Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent, discussed the report that we received from the State of Michigan, Department of Environmental Quality, concerning the dump site next to Wick School.

Curriculum Initiative Update

Mr. Thomas Dolan, Director of Curriculum, updated the Board of Education on the curriculum initiatives.

Communications and Expressions from the Public

None.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent, shared the following items with the Board of Education: 1) High School "Thanks" – BPAR Conference; 2) Stasak Nomination – Teacher of the Year; and 3) "Thanks" from the Cub Scouts.

Questions and/or Concerns of Board Members

Mrs. Judie Gondek stated that the holes in the wall were fixed.

Mrs. Julie Oleszkowicz reminded the Board of Education about the Volunteer Dinner on Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Kenneth Berlinn expressed concern relative to students sharing science textbooks. Administration to investigate.

Executive Session – Negotiations

2/97/16 Moved by Gondek supported by Oleszkowicz that the Board convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiations. Roll call vote showed: Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 8:46 P.M. and reconvened in Regular Session at 9:01 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

2/97/17 Moved by Lenossi supported by Woods that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard J. Kesner, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

Obituaries

Samuel William Bush

Samuel William Bush of Romulus, Michigan, died on Thursday, March 6, 1997. He was 78 years old.

Samuel was born in Leroy, Michigan, on July 3, 1918.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth A. Bush; one son, Larry R. Bush (Maybee, MI); four daughters, Mrs. John (Patty) McGlothlin (Romulus, MI), Mrs. Sandra Savage (Romulus, MI), Mrs. Beverly Edward (Columbia, TN), and Mrs. Rick (Linda) Thompson (Warren, MI); two sisters, Mrs.

Rose Mary Lee (Romulus, MI) and Mrs. Belva Briggs (Cadillac, MI); 14 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. Predeceasing Samuel were four brothers and six sisters.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 8, at Crane Funeral Home, with Pastor William Bingham (Church of God, Romulus, MI) officiating at the service.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock).

Mildred Rose Dryer

Mildred Rose Dryer of Sumpter Township, Michigan (formerly of Romulus, MI), died on Saturday, March 8, 1997, at the age of 70.

A native of Ecorse, Michigan, Mildred was born September 2, 1926.

She is survived by four sons, Michael Krupnow (Waynesville, NC), William Krupnow (Arkansas), Leonard B. Dryer (Hale, MI), and Steven J. Dryer (Manton, MI); three stepsons, Jess W. Dryer (Romulus, MI), Robert A. Dryer (Ocala, FL), and

James G. Dryer (Otisville, MI); two daughters, Mrs. Roger (Carol Ann) Carpenter (Manton, MI) and Mrs. Dennis (Sandra L.) Roy (Belleville, MI); and one sister, Mrs. Joyce Eyester (Hale, MI).

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, March 11, at Crane Funeral Home, with the Reverend Bradford Lewis (Community United Methodist Church, Romulus, MI) officiating.

Interment was at Denton Cemetery (Van Buren Township, MI).

Clarence J. Morgan

Clarence J. Morgan of Romulus, Michigan, died on Tuesday, March 18, 1997. He was 51 years old.

Clarence was born to the late Clarence H. and Thelma (LaPorte) Morgan on May 23, 1945, in Detroit, Michigan. The Hayes Wheels, Inc., employee was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #934, the Fraternal Order of Elks Lodge #3996, and the United Auto Workers Local #78.

Surviving Clarence are his wife, Arlene (Savela) Morgan; three sons, John A. (and his fiancée, Suzanna Walney) Morgan (Ann Arbor, MI), Clarence J. Morgan (Romulus, MI), and Jerry A. (and his wife Fayeallen)

Morgan (Romulus, MI); two daughters, Katharine (and her husband Wilfredo) Pacheco (Romulus, MI) and Karen M. (and her husband Michael) Liakos (Dearborn Heights, MI); six siblings, William Lyke (Taylor, MI), Betty Bevins (Georgia), Haroldine Schavers (Tennessee), Joyce York (Ann Arbor, MI), Linda Bolyea (Florida), and Judy Hayden (Kentucky); and 11 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, March 21, at the David C. Brown Funeral Home, with Father Darin Roberts (University Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI) officiating.

Interment will be at Glen Eden Memorial Park (Livonia, MI).

Clarence William Ries

Clarence William Ries of Angola, Indiana (formerly of Quincy and Romulus, Michigan, as well as Arizona), died on Tuesday, March 11, 1997. He was 78 years old.

The native of Romulus, Michigan, was born September 25, 1918.

Clarence is survived by two sons, Scott William Ries (Chandler, AZ) and Frederick W. Ries (Phoenix, AZ); three daughters, Mrs. David (Carol Dawn) Brown (Quincy, MI), Mrs.

David (Suzanne) Gregory (Issaquah, WA), and Patricia E. Ries (Angola, IN); and one sister, Mrs. John (Norma Jean) Grishaber (Romulus, MI). Predeceasing Clarence were five brothers and one sister.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 15, at Crane Funeral Home, with the Reverend Robert Allman (St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, New Boston, MI) officiating at the service. □

The Stork Arrived

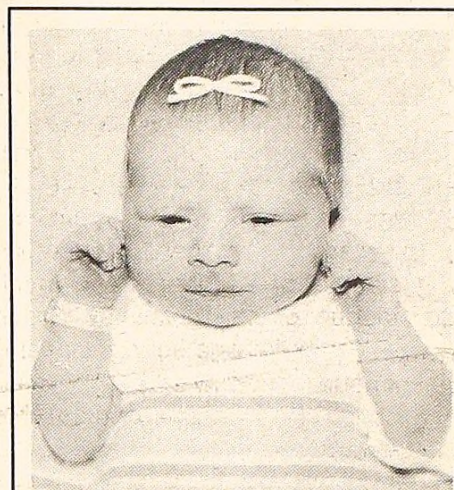
Samantha Ann Brooks

Proudly announcing the birth of their new daughter, Samantha Ann Brooks, are Billy and Marty Brooks of Dearborn, Michigan.

Samantha was born in Oakwood Hospital (Dearborn, MI) at 8:15 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 1997, weighing in at eight pounds, seven ounces, and measuring 22 inches in length.

Especially excited about Samantha's arrival were her big brother, Benjamin (age five) and big sister, Anastasia (age three).

Samantha's paternal grandparents are William and Carolyn Brooks (Romulus, MI). Florence Swerdlen (Romulus, MI) is her maternal grandmother.



Samantha Ann Brooks

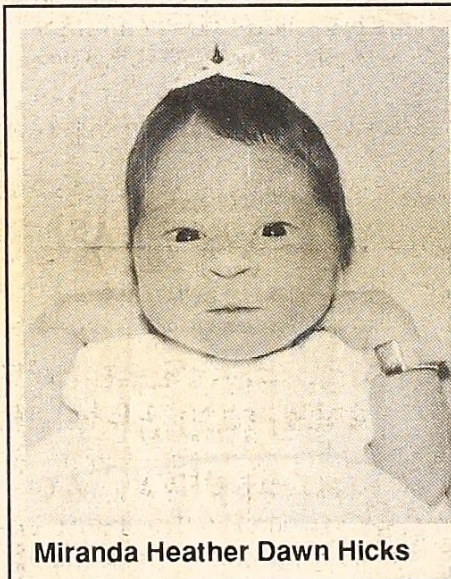
Miranda Heather Dawn Hicks

Steven and Ronda Hicks of Romulus, Michigan, were the recipients of the sweetest Valentine's Day gift of all – a new daughter, Miranda Heather Dawn Hicks.

Miranda was born in Oakwood Hospital (Dearborn, MI) at 9:43 a.m. on Friday, February 14, 1997, weighing in at six pounds, three ounces, and measuring 19½ inches in length.

Also welcoming the newest member of the family were her big brother, Steven Jr., and her big sisters, Courtney and Marissa.

Miranda's paternal grandparents are Maynard and Angeline Hicks (Romulus, MI). Ron and Peggy Marz (Romulus, MI) are her maternal grandparents.



Miranda Heather Dawn Hicks

Laurel Catherine Marciniak

Fred Jr. and Sandra Marciniak of Romulus, Michigan, are proud to announce the birth of their new daughter, Laurel Catherine Marciniak.

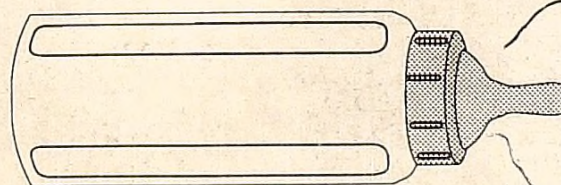
Laurel was born in Mt. Sinai Hospital (Detroit, MI) at 9:05 a.m. on Thursday, December 5, 1996, weighing in at eight pounds, one ounce, and measuring 22 inches in length.

Laurel's big brother, Fred III, was especially excited about her arrival.

Fred and Dorothy Marciniak (Mio, MI; formerly of Detroit, MI) are Laurel's paternal grandparents. Her maternal grandparents are the late Stephen and the late Catherine Kokoski.



Laurel Catherine Marciniak



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